Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Student Loan Finance Corporation, founded on December 28, 1978, and since that time, has provided over 300,000 loans to students; and,

Whereas, From the corporation's beginning with two employees to the current 100 employees, who now own the company through Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), they are a major South Dakota employer with assets approaching $2 billion, and serve students in over 30 states; and,

Whereas, When the company converted from a non-profit to employee-owned corporation in 1998, it donated nearly $86 million to create Great Plains Educational Foundation, which provides educational support for a multitude of South Dakota educational projects; and,

Whereas, Student Loan Finance Corporation has never varied from its mission of helping students to obtain post secondary, technical, graduate, and professional degrees; and,

Whereas, It is appropriate to recognize the leadership of the founding directors, Vi Stoia, Manley Feinstein, and Jim Bishop, subsequent original directors, Norg Sanderson and Harvey Jewett, and corporate secretary, Rolly Samp, along with the leadership, management, and employees for 25 years of successfully providing for the educational needs of South Dakota students and others around the country; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor of this state to recognize, honor, and thank the many individuals that have contributed to the success of this corporation as they celebrate the 25th Anniversary at a banquet on December 17, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 28, 2003, as

STUDENT LOAN FINANCE CORPORATION DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State